

NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome street.—Mazepa.

GEORGE CHRISTY'S—OLD SCHOOL OF MINSTRELS, RAILROAD BUILDING, 225 N. 5TH ST. (OPPOSITE 10TH ST.)

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Broadway.—SINGING, DANCING, &c.—ONE HUNDRED YEARS HENCE. Matinee at 2:30 o'clock.

WOOD'S THEATRE, Broadway, opposite the St. Nicholas Hotel.—THE ELVES—THE GOOD FOR NOTHING. Matinee at 1:30 o'clock.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 533 Broadway, opposite Metropolitan Hotel.—STREET SONGS, DANCES, &c.—MATINEE.

BRANT'S MINSTRELS, Metropolitan Hall, 47 Broadway.—NEGRO COMEDY, DANCING, &c.—MATINEE.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Broadway, opposite Metropolitan Hotel.—STREET SONGS, DANCES, &c.—MATINEE.

COOPER INSTITUTE, Astor Place.—DR. COOPER'S LECTURE ON NERVOUS DISEASE.

DODWORTH HALL, 800 Broadway.—REV. PROF. GEO. F. STEPHENS'S LECTURE, "CATHOLICALS OF ENGLAND."—OPENING AT 10 A. M.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway, opening at 10 A. M.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN, Cor. of Twenty-third Street and Fourth Avenue.—EXHIBITION OF ORIGINAL WORKS BY LIVING ARTISTS.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, May 9, 1886.

TO ADVERTISERS.

To insure the proper classification of advertisements they must be brought in before half-past eight o'clock in the evening.

THE NEWS.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday the joint resolution relative to the attempted assassination of the Emperor of Russia, with an additional amendment requesting the President to send a copy to the Emperor, was passed. The joint resolution to exempt crude petroleum from internal taxation was passed. The Post Office Appropriation bill was taken up, the pending motion being on Mr. Trumbull's amendment restricting the appointing powers of the President. The vote upon which was reconsidered on Monday. The clause requiring a report to the Senate of the case and cause of removal was, on motion, stricken out. A substitute for his original amendment was offered by Mr. Trumbull, the discussion of which was broken in upon by the adjournment.

In the House an attempt to postpone the consideration of the reconstruction report and continue the consideration of the Revenue bill was lost. The report of the committee was accordingly taken up, and Mr. Stevens opened the debate with a speech in favor of the report. He said that the propositions contained in that report were not what he would have preferred, but he believed it was the best that could be obtained in the present state of public opinion. He did not believe that the nineteen States could be induced to ratify any proposition more stringent. He would not consider the Southern States as entitled to a voice in the question of ratification. A lengthy discussion ensued on the third section of the amendment, which disfranchises all rebels until 1870, during which the House took a recess. The evening session was devoted entirely to the consideration of the Revenue bill. The tax on cotton was fixed at five cents per pound.

THE CITY.

Three new cases of cholera occurred among the passengers of the steamer Virginia (now on board the Illinois), on Monday, and were admitted the same day to the hospital. Sixty-five of the convalescents were removed from the hospital ship to the Starbuck, which vessel has been fitted up for the accommodation of such patients. There are forty-seven cases still remaining on board of the Falcon, and the total number of deaths, including those that occurred on Monday, is fifty-five, being a little more than one-third of the entire number of the sick, or thirty-four per cent.

At the meeting of the Board of Health yesterday it was ordered that the sidewalk stands at the Fulton Market, which extend along Fulton and Beekman streets, be removed. The building on the Five Points, recently transferred to the Board of Health by Mr. Haliday, has been ordered to be torn down, by resolution of the Common Council, its occupancy as a hospital being objectionable to certain residents of that locality. The President of the Board will protest against this proceeding. A full report of the proceedings, which are of an interesting nature, will be found elsewhere in to-day's issue.

The Board of Excise met yesterday afternoon. The committee reported that nine hundred additional licenses had been granted for New York and one hundred and forty-seven for Brooklyn, since the last meeting of the Board. A report was submitted and accepted, to the effect that the Board had the power to grant more than one license to each person on payment of the two hundred and fifty dollars.

At a special meeting of the Board of Aldermen, yesterday, a resolution was passed directing the discontinuance of all proceedings in the matter of the widening of Anna and Fulton streets. The Tax Levy, as passed by the Legislature, was then discussed, many of the items appropriating large sums of money being stricken out previous to reaching the committee of the Board of Common Council for concurrence. The Board adjourned to Monday next.

The Board of Common Council met yesterday and transacted a large amount of routine business. A resolution which was presented last week, recommending the Board of Health to establish free public baths throughout the city, was adopted. After waiting till a late hour for the reception of the Tax Levy from the Board of Aldermen, the Board, on the reception of the paper, adjourned till Thursday.

At a meeting of the Farmer's Club of the American Institute yesterday the questions how to secure a crop of plums, the use of plaster of Paris and the building of country houses, were discussed. Several agricultural machines and implements were exhibited.

The fifteenth, or Jubilee Anniversary of the New York Sunday School Union was held yesterday afternoon in the Lutheran church, corner of Fifth street and Sixth avenue. The religious services were interesting, and the vocal performance of the children in singing the hymns was highly enjoyed by the various speakers. The anniversary was celebrated also last evening at the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian church, Rev. Dr. Ferris presiding. The exercises comprised prayer, singing, the delivery of several addresses, the reading the annual report of the Union, and the election of officers for the ensuing year.

The annual anniversary of the American and Foreign Christian Union took place last evening at the Presbyterian church, corner of Fifth avenue and Nineteenth street. Several missions and prominent divines addressed the audience. The recent mission of the Catholic Church was dwelt upon at length and thoroughly ventilated. The progress of Protestantism and Sunday Schools in foreign lands was also freely discussed.

The anniversary of the American Missionary Association was celebrated for the first time in this city, at the Cooper Union, yesterday morning. Addresses were delivered by Major General O. O. Howard, of the Freedmen's Bureau, and Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.

The fifteenth anniversary of the Five Points House of Industry was celebrated yesterday by the examination of over three hundred children in figures, grammar and geography. To-day or to-morrow General O. O. Howard, Rev. Mr. Minger and others are expected to address the pupils.

The Boston Tract Society held their fifty-second anniversary meeting in Irving Hall, before a very respectable and numerous audience. Speeches were delivered by Rev. Dr. Vermilyea and other clergymen on the occasion. Major General Howard made a speech which called forth much applause. It is contemplated that the Boston and New York Tract Societies will be long be united.

The first general missionary meeting of the Universalist Society of New York was held last evening at the Blackwell street church, at which the Rev. J. H. Hartwell, of Buffalo, delivered a grand address on "Denominational Advantages," alluding to the rapid progress of Universalism in the United States. Short addresses were made by

Messrs. E. W. Crowell and H. McAdam, after which the Rev. D. C. Trullinger, financial agent, read the report, showing the total receipts of the society to be \$5,609.

The thirty-third anniversary of the American Anti-Slavery Society took place yesterday in Doctor Cheever's church, Union square. The denunciation of the orators and the resolutions. Negro suffrage was also an important topic. Wendell Phillips unbridled himself at both sessions, and was very bitter on the President. The other speakers were black and white preachers and women. Collections were taken up both morning and evening.

The Forman will case, involving property to the amount of nearly \$250,000, was on before Surrogate Tucker yesterday. The contest between the heirs was commenced last fall, and bids fair to occupy the attention of the court for a fortnight longer. The remainder of the trial calendar was postponed until the 21st.

Counsel for the defense yesterday argued before Judge Barnard, in the Supreme Court, Chambers, the motion for the postponement of the trial of the Madame Jumel, will case. Mr. Charles O'Connor will follow to-day in opposition.

The General Term of the Supreme Court has rendered an important opinion as to the powers and prerogatives of the City Judge to issue writs of habeas corpus. The opinion, which is published in another column, states some interesting facts in connection with the issuing of the writ.

Judge Barnard has granted an injunction on application of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund and Mr. B. L. Thorn, restraining the Board of Health from interfering with the stalls and stands in Washington Market.

In the United States Commissioners' office yesterday, before Commissioner Betts, the nitro-glycerine case, in which Otto Burstenblader is defendant, was called on, but, in the absence of a witness, an adjournment till to-morrow took place.

Judge Ingraham sat in the Court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday for the purpose of proceeding with the hearing of the cases set down upon the calendar; out of a panel of two hundred only thirty jurors answered to their names, and the Judge intimated that every juror would be fined twenty-five dollars for each day's absence. No case being ready, there was an adjournment till this morning, when it is understood Edward Johnson will be put on his trial for the alleged homicide of Patrick Druey, on the 12th of January last, by stabbing him with a knife in the breast.

The Steiner Porter case, in which Porter is charged with obtaining money under false pretences from H. D. Steiner, was up yesterday before Justice Dodge, and a motion to dismiss the case was overruled.

William A. Barron was again brought before Commissioner Stillwell yesterday on a charge of having attempted to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill on H. F. Repper, book-keeper to George Schaffer, No. 127 Avenue B, on the 20th of April. The prisoner, who offered no evidence in his defense, was committed for trial.

Three men, named respectively Martin Allen, Gilbert and John McGoffey, and James Wells, all charged with being concerned in the robbery of the Adams Express car on the New Haven train, on the night of the 6th of January last, by which they secured one hundred and thirty thousand dollars in government bonds and bills, were arrested in this city and Brooklyn during the past week, and forthwith conveyed to Bridgeport, Conn., where they were committed in default of eight thousand dollars' bail each. With these men it is believed all the parties implicated in the robbery are now arrested.

A colored man named John Perrell violently assaulted another colored man, named Alois Prince, a waiter in Gould's saloon, in Nassau street, on Monday evening. Prince, however, drew a revolver and fired three shots at Perrell, one of which, it is thought, will prove fatal. Jealousy was the motive power. Prince was arrested.

A stabbing affray occurred on Thirty-third street late on Monday night. Edward O'Donnell, living in East Forty-third street, was stabbed twice in the face by Michael Dillon, while quarrelling, but the wounds are not dangerous.

The coroner's jury in the case of Nathan Lavinsky, the boy who was killed by being run over by the driver of car No. 131 on the Seventh Avenue Railroad on Sunday last, have returned a verdict laying the blame on the driver.

The veterans of the National Guard propose erecting a monument in some central location in the city to the members of the organization who fell in the late war.

Three men named Monford, Collins and Clement were drowned, on Sunday last, by the upsetting of a pleasure boat in which they were going from Staten Island to the Jersey shore. They resided in Jersey City.

The stock market continued dull but steady yesterday. Governments were quiet. Gold was strong, closing at 129 1/4.

There was no special change to note in the commercial situation yesterday, though there was rather more animation and the markets were generally firm, while in some instances better prices were realized. Petroleum was active and firm. Cotton was dull and nominal. Other commodities were steady. On Chicago the active movement in four continued, and prices again advanced 20c. a bushel. Wheat was 2c. a bushel. Corn was dull and lower. Pork was irregular. Beef steady. Lard firm. Whiskey dull and nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is now positively stated that the President will veto the Colorado bill on account of the floating character and small number of its population.

The Acting Attorney General has decided that bankers doing business as brokers are subject under the Internal Revenue law to pay duties upon all sales of stock, &c., whether negotiated for themselves or others. Instructions in conformity with this opinion have been issued by Commissioner Collins to assessors and collectors.

Our European files by the Peruvia, from Quebec yesterday evening, contain interesting details of the news to the 26th of April, including a report of the speech delivered by Mr. Bright, M. P., in London, in support of the American Freedmen's Aid Fund. Eighty thousand pounds sterling had been already sent in to Exeter Hall for the object and more cash was coming.

The map of the China, dated to the 28th of April, reached Boston from Halifax yesterday afternoon and are due in New York early this morning.

Advices by way of Havana on the 26th ult. from Mexico mention the official announcement to the Prefect at San Luis Potosi of a victory over the liberals at Matchuala on the 6th inst. The report that the imperialists had occupied Minatitlan was confirmed. A tax is to be imposed by the empire on doors and windows. The Emperor himself appears to be devoting his time mainly to the financial condition of the country, examining the plans of M. Langlais in person.

Our latest dates from New Brunswick previous to those published this morning, regarding the anti-confederationalists of that province as badly defeated and the Cabinet of the Lieutenant Governor forced to resign. It was supposed that Parliament would not be dissolved, but that the confederational scheme would be hastily carried through over the heads of the people. By the news from our correspondent at St. John, it now appears that the anti-confederationalists have carried their point, that Parliament is to be dissolved to-day and an election ordered. The question of confederation will of course be the issue, and an important one to the interests of the British colonies individually and collectively.

The news report from Kingston, Jamaica, by way of Havana, is dated to the 14th of April; but we have already had advices to the 19th ult.

The Fenian party fleet of Swans, from Chicago, was reported in full view, heading for that point, yesterday, and the call for volunteers was immediately raised. The volunteers being absent on the border the citizens armed and paraded the streets all night. The Fenians of this city were engaged yesterday with the reported doings of the Senate now in session. The rumors about Stephens' alleged little attention, his complicity with Killian O'Mahoney business having diverted him of all power in American Fenianism. O'Mahoney and Killian are assailing each other in long documents through the papers. Killian has little to say, but holds the lease of the mansion.

Secretary McCulloch's visit to Fort Monroe was merely one of pleasure, and has no significance as an official point of view. His colored steward, who had formerly belonged to Mrs. Davis, paid his respects to that lady, and was accordingly received. The Secretary has returned to Washington, and reports that the prison treatment extended to Mr. Davis is unexceptionable.

The United States Court was opened yesterday at Savannah. On Thursday the constitutionality of the test oath is to be argued.

The United States Court at Norfolk, Judge Underwood presiding, was opened yesterday. The Judge charged the jury, dwelling upon the necessity of bringing the rebel leaders to trial for inciting and continuing rebellion. Judicial papers, he said, should not be interpreted with

A price fight for six hundred dollars came off yesterday morning at White House Landing, on the Virginia side of the Potomac river, between Sam Collier, of Baltimore, and Race Bolster, of Washington city, which was won by Collier after forty-nine rounds. Bolster broke his hand in the ninth round, and was badly beaten, while Collier came out of the ring almost unscathed. On the return of the party to Washington a shooting affray took place on the steamboat, in which a man named Donnelly was said to be fatally wounded.

Three large buildings in Chicago were destroyed by fire on yesterday at Herkimer, N. Y., to seven years imprisonment at Auburn.

Senator Sherman's Proposition to Consolidate the National Debt.

It is gratifying to notice occasionally something sensible proposed in Congress. Amid the dreary waste of pointless discussion about the everlasting negro, there does appear sometimes an intelligent and patriotic man who endeavors to bring Congress to consider something practical and useful for the country. Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, has on several occasions lately raised himself out of the mire of radical partisan politics and has taken up with correct views generally the important questions pertaining to our finances, currency and national debt. On Wednesday he introduced in the Senate a bill "to reduce the rate of interest on the national debt, and for funding the same." It provides, as the Senator remarked in his explanatory statement, for a five per cent thirty years' loan, in the usual form, to be called the "Consolidated Debt of the United States," and to be disposed of at not less than par, and to be applied to the payment of the existing national debt other than United States notes, commonly known as greenbacks. These few words state concisely the object and substance of the bill. It is a most important measure, and the introduction of it now shows that sound practical ideas on this subject are making their way in Congress.

In an editorial article in the HERALD of April 16, on the subject of "the financial problem of the country," we used this language:—"The next step should be to consolidate the whole debt and make a uniform and reduced rate of interest. A sinking fund, looking to the extinguishment of the debt in forty or fifty years should also be established. This would give stability and confidence, and would lighten the burdens of the people." We have been urging the same views all along during the last few months. We saw that the Jay Cooke theory of a national debt being a national blessing, and the powerful combined efforts of the bondholders, backed by the monstrous moneyed monopoly of the national banks, to increase and perpetuate a ruinous financial system, must be strenuously resisted. We have opposed, too, the visionary notions of the currency quacks as to contracting our legal tender circulation. Mr. McCulloch, and the whole Treasury Department, the Chase and Jay Cooke financiers, the host of bondholders, the national banks, which are making fifteen per cent on their capital and out of the people, and the radical press of the country in the interest of this powerful combination—all were advocating the most impracticable and destructive theories. It is now the more gratifying, therefore, to see one of the ablest and most influential Senators adopt our views, both on the question of the currency as well as on that of funding the debt. Mr. Sherman, in his proposition to fund the debt and reduce the interest, excepts the non-interest-bearing debt in the form of greenbacks. These are no burden upon the country, and are evidently and properly regarded by this Senator as our safe, healthy and proper currency. It is reported that the Secretary of the Treasury approves of the bill introduced by Mr. Sherman. We hope it may be so, and if it be, we congratulate Mr. McCulloch on the progress he is making and the good sense he shows.

The funding of the debt, reducing the interest and making it uniform, and creating a sinking fund for the extinguishment of the debt ought to be provided for at one and the same time. It would be best, perhaps, to do it all in one bill. The consolidation of the debt, all of it having a long time to run, say thirty or forty years, gives it the character of a permanent security, and raises its value accordingly. Old United States sixes of long date always were quoted higher than those of shorter date. It would be so with the new debt. Six or seven per cent bonds having only a few years to run, would really be worth more than American consols bearing five per cent interest running thirty or forty years. In no sense, consequently, does the proposed bill of Mr. Sherman squint at repudiation or injustice to the bondholders. There is not only the precedent set by all governments in this respect to justify us in doing the same, but we should not be doing any one wrong or breaking faith with the public creditors. We have been legislating enough for the benefit of the bondholders and a moneyed monopoly; it is necessary now to lighten the burdens of the people as much as possible and look more to the general interests of the country. At the same time that a consolidated debt for a long period would enhance the value of the debt as a permanent security, a sinking fund for the ultimate extinguishment of it would raise the credit of the government, inspire confidence, and make its securities the best in the world. Though this, at first sight, may seem to be an anomaly, it is nevertheless true that both a long time debt and the certainty of payment increase its value. There ought, then, to be a permanent sinking fund created at the time the debt may be consolidated.

There is one feature of Mr. Sherman's bill, however, which is of a more doubtful character; that which refers to the exemption of the consols from taxation or duties by the States, municipal authorities, or the United States government, and the provision that the interest shall always be paid in coin. There is no doubt that this would facilitate the funding of the debt; and it may be doubted if the government would not meet with some difficulty at the outset in changing such a vast amount of indebtedness from one form to another, without this tempting provision of the bill. Still, we have to look to the future and to consider how far the exemption of such a vast amount of property from taxation would affect hereafter other interests and the country at large. With regard to promising to pay interest and principal in coin, that may not operate amiss just now. Yet the time may come—though we hope it never will—when it might not be convenient to pay in coin, as, for example, in case of war. Besides, the money of the government, the regular greenback currency, should be the basis of all legislation and transactions of a

financial character. We submit these views as suggestions, and hope Mr. Sherman, who has begun right and has taken up the matter in earnest, may consider them well. It may be necessary to have another bill to establish a uniform currency, to abolish the national banks, and to create some system by which the paper money of the government may be made as valuable as coin. If that should be done, there would be no necessity for the coin clause of the funding bill. However, the main object is now to fund the debt, reduce the interest, and provide for its extinguishment.

But as no general system of national finance will be complete or can be as successful as desired until the currency and monetary institutions of the country be put on a proper basis, one of the first things to be done is to abolish the so-called national banks and make government legal tenders the only currency of the country. These banks are a fraud and a cheat upon the people. They take the profits upon three hundred millions of circulation which might and ought to go into the Treasury for the benefit of the public, without paying anything for the privilege. Being called national banks, and issuing a currency called national, people have thought they were government institutions; that the government was liable for their transactions, and that they were perfectly safe, while, in fact, they are but private institutions and no more secure than other banks. Their circulation is secured, it is true, by deposits of government bonds, and this, under all ordinary circumstances, may secure the note holders; but the recent failures show that depositors, and even the government itself, may suffer by their failure. The people are deceived by these so-called national banks. They are a vast and dangerous monopoly, of no benefit to the government or the people, and only profitable to the monopolists themselves. The act creating them ought to be repealed. The government should buy up or retire the bonds now deposited by these banks by a new issue of legal tenders equal to the amount of their circulation, and thus save the interest on these bonds. It would not increase the volume of currency, would give a sounder and more preferable currency, and would save to the country an amount that, at compound interest, would pay the national debt within fifty years. We call upon Mr. Sherman, who begins to take broad views on the general subject of finance, and upon Congress to lay the foundation of a sound and permanent system of currency, as well as for the management and liquidation of the national debt.

Anticipated Hari-Kari of Thurlow Weed and other Japanese Agents.

Our foreign advices published yesterday contain the most distressing news from Japan. It seems that one of the gunboats purchased in this country for the Japanese government had arrived at Yokohama, and upon examination was found to be very defective and to have cost too much. The result of this examination having been announced, the Japanese engineer who purchased the vessel at once committed suicide. We call this intelligence distressing, not so much on account of these facts, but on account of its anticipated effect in this country. The Japanese engineer, like Logan, the poor Indian, may have none to mourn for him, "no, not one;" but there are several persons here who will probably feel called upon to follow his example, and these persons are very respectably connected and cannot be so suddenly spared by the community. If we are not mistaken, this Japanese gunboat, described as defective and too costly, is one of a pair constructed in this city by Westervelt, and the supervision of Mr. Thurlow Weed and Captain J. J. Cogstock. The Japanese government sent on three hundred thousand dollars in gold, through Minister Pruyn, for the purchase of these two vessels. Minister Pruyn handed the matter and the money over to Secretary Seward, who entrusted the funds and the contract to Mr. Thurlow Weed. After considerable delay, during which the three hundred thousand dollars in gold probably did not remain idle, the gunboats were finished, and the information which we have published announces the reception which one of them has met with in Japan.

A strict interpretation of the law for such cases made and provided holds Minister Pruyn, Secretary Seward, Thurlow Weed, Captain Cogstock, Mr. Westervelt, the shipbuilder, and Mr. Murphy, the constructor of the engines, accountable as Japanese agents, liable to all the pains and penalties of this position, including the hari-kari. Minister Pruyn may possibly be considered blameless, on the ground that he washed his hands of the affair when he transferred the money to Secretary Seward; and the Secretary may also escape by pleading that he shifted the responsibility upon Mr. Thurlow Weed. For Messrs. Weed, Cogstock, Westervelt and Murphy, however, we find no loophole. They are bound in honor to imitate the Japanese engineer who committed suicide so soon as the intelligence of the failure of the vessel was communicated to him. Mr. Weed is particularly in peril, and room No. 11 at the Astor House may be transformed at any moment into a chamber of horrors. As the State barber, Mr. Weed always carries a case of fine sharp razors in the breast pocket of his coat, and thus the weapons for his self-immolation are within his reach. His nice sense of honor, his delicacy and his remarkable respect for ancient observances will combine to irresistibly urge him to the rash step against which his better judgment will in vain protest. He will feel that if the gunboat cost too much it is his fault; if anybody is to die he ought to be the person, and not the forlorn Japanese engineer. We can readily imagine the effect of this logic upon a mind so susceptible as his, and we therefore advise that he be watched night and day to prevent the accomplishment of the dreadful purpose which now inspires him. No doubt there are plenty of candidates for office under Collector Smythe who will gladly undertake this duty. The bluff Cogstock, the ambitious Westervelt and the ingenious Murphy should also be placed under watch and ward, lest their acute consciences should likewise suggest the hari-kari. Indeed, the same precautions might not inappropriately be extended to the constructors of naval and mechanical failures, from Ericsson and his caloric engine to Dickerson and his Algonquin. If our government, like the Japanese, should demand the hari-kari of these gentlemen our population would soon be very considerably reduced. But, on

the whole, we entertain the most alarming anticipations in regard to Mr. Weed. His agency in this Japanese business is so clear, his reputation hitherto so pure, and his sensitiveness as to responsibility so extreme, that unless he be deprived of all edged tools, even at dinner, we shall not presume to answer for the consequence.

The Freedmen's Bureau—Its Mischievous Influence.

New England philanthropy, the humanitarian sentiment of this conscientious district, its horror of slavery and of the cruelties of the Southern white man towards the negro, were the basis and the staple of the great agitation that forced the country into war. Now slavery is abolished, there is no such thing legally as property in man, but there is a kind of official guardianship of the negro exercised by the Freedmen's Bureau. The agents of this Bureau are New England men to a very great extent, and thus it happens that the negro has fallen into the hands of the very men who were horrified by the treatment he received as a slave from Southern white men, and every mail from the South tells us of the brutalities practised toward the negro by those tender-hearted philanthropists. The Northern humanitarian has taken the place of the Southern nigger driver of other days only to show that he can be the more cruel of the two and outdo all that maudlin fiction imputed to the other. Our correspondence on this subject yesterday showed how a reverend humanitarian from Massachusetts attached to the Freedmen's Bureau, and managing a plantation on his own account, actually shot a negro for attempting to "run away," and this when slavery has been abolished.

Now that the great Southern institution has been swept away, the next thing for the country to abolish is the Freedmen's Bureau. This establishment is the parent of untold evils in every part of the Southern States. It is simply a great agent for the demoralization of labor. It was originally established in the expectation that it would prevent many of the evils that it was thought would be incident to the changed condition of the negro; but it fosters and keeps alive the evils it was expected to prevent. It was to stand between the negro and the planter and soften the asperities both ways—to prevent idleness on the one hand and bad treatment on the other. But all the idleness, misunderstandings and cases of bad treatment are traceable directly to this Bureau and its agents. It is corrupt through and through. It sells negroes to planters at so much per head, and, following the plan of the bounty brokers, sells the same negro over and over to different men. It is not trusted or respected by any portion of the Southern people. Its agencies in the various districts are looked upon as disreputable places, and farmers who wish to respect the government keep away from them. The Bureau is a constant cause of trouble, and Southern society will never be restored to its natural condition till this bad institution is swept away.

It is also a great swindle upon the country. We suppose as a people that we have gotten rid of the great blot in our history; that we have destroyed the iniquitous system of slavery that was our reproach before the world. But here in this Bureau, under the cover of philanthropy, the worst evils of that system are perpetuated. It is undeniable that the operation of this Bureau is identical with slavery; that it treats the negro just as slavery did, only that it gives the preference in possession to another class of men. The negro has changed owners. He has passed into the hands of Northern capitalists that have political power, and the Freedmen's Bureau guarantees possession. While this it preserves the negro in a real slavery, it has no responsibility, and thus it is in fact worse than the former system of slavery. Every unprejudiced account from the South agrees in the declaration that the Freedmen's Bureau is the great obstacle to the complete reconstruction of Southern society, and there should be a great popular movement to abolish it.

THE PHILADELPHIA MURDERER PROBT.—The horrible crime of Probst in murdering the Deering family, which he has now confessed, is so fiendish that for the sake of humanity we would rather throw a pall of impenetrable darkness over it, if that were possible, than to recur to it. But it cannot be obliterated. It is one of those extraordinary crimes that are never forgotten. The remembrance of it in our day, and the story of it in future times, will make people shudder with horror. Yet there are those who say that such a wretch should live, that the death penalty should be abolished. There are pretended philanthropists who would only punish him by imprisonment and after a term of years let him loose on society again. Revolting as executions are it would be more revolting to know that such an inhuman fiend existed. The only way to prevent such crimes is by certain, terrible and swift punishment. One of the chief causes of so many fearful crimes that have been committed in the country lately may be found in the uncertainty of punishment and chances of escape. Let the man with murder in his heart know that no quibbles of the law or lawyers, influence of politicians, or appeals of a false philanthropy can save him from the gallows, and he will hesitate to commit the crime he contemplates.

Too often insanity is pleaded to save criminals, and we should not be surprised to hear that this plea is made to save Probst. It is said he "frequently laughed while detailing his confession of these horrible crimes." It may be urged that no man, however inhuman, could laugh under such circumstances if sane. It does seem almost incredible, and it would be some relief if we could know the wretch was insane. But the deliberate purpose, conceived some time before the deed, and the manner of executing it, with all the attending circumstances, forbid such a thought. Happily such atrocious crimes are rare, but there have been monsters similar to this one whose sanity was as undoubted as their cruelty. We have no heart or disposition to enter into the sickening details of the appalling murder of the Deering family, and for the sake of human nature would throw a veil of oblivion over it; but we feel it is our duty to the public on this occasion to warn the executive, judicial and legislative bodies of the country against yielding to the appeals of sentimental philanthropists about the death penalty. Without this safeguard to society nobody, no family would be safe. Had the law been executed more surely and swiftly than it has been we should not have heard of so many murders and perhaps not of this most horrible one. The welfare of society is to be

regarded before morbid sentimentality. Inflexible justice in such a case is mercy to the community.

The Bank Failure at Washington—The National System.

The failure of the Merchants' National Bank at Washington is very justly attracting a small amount of attention. It reveals the dangers which threaten us under the national system of banking, showing, as it does, the inherent weakness and the lack of the necessary checks and safeguards to prevent those institutions from falling by their own corruption. The loose manner in which the business of this bank was carried on shows very conclusively that there is something radically wrong in the organization of the national banks. While this failure has only revealed the mode of doing business by one of these banks, it nevertheless gives the public some idea of the rottenness of the whole system, and the chances for a general collapse of the national banks throughout the country. It is to be sure, only the beginning—the opening of one of the ulcers in our financial system inaugurated by Chase for political purposes. We fear that it is only the commencement of a series of explosions of the same or similar character all over the country, and therefore calls for the immediate attention of Congress.

If Comptroller Clarke had attended to his duty we dare say that this collapse might have been prevented or at least the government saved from loss. But it appears that he did not understand his duties, and instead of watching the banks turned his attention to criticizing and overhauling his superior officers. He was placed in his present position for the purpose of looking after the banks and protecting the public as well as the interests of the government. But such does not appear to have been his interpretation of the functions of his office, and he therefore let the banks run to suit themselves, while he spent his time in writing letters and pamphlets about the Secretary of the Treasury. We trust that the developments in regard to the failure of this bank will be sufficient warning to Mr. Clarke to attend to the affairs of his own office and let those of the Secretaries alone. He has at least received a significant hint which he will do well to act upon hereafter. Secretary McCulloch and his deputy, Mr. Spinner, have also, in the collapse of the national banks, conclusive evidence of the danger of intrusting the funds of the Treasury Department in the hands of these concerns.

These facts do not remove the responsibility from the shoulders of Congress in this emergency, but, on the contrary, call for immediate and positive legislation from that body to prevent a universal collapse of the national banks. The Bank Committee have now a duty to perform. That committee have done nothing this session. They have reported no bills nor taken any action in regard to the banking interests of the nation. They have now plenty of work to do, and can obtain the facts necessary to guide their actions without leaving the national capital. The committee should proceed at once and make a thorough investigation of the cause of the failure of the Merchants' Bank, and upon the facts thus ascertained prepare a law which will remove all further danger in the future. This much it is their duty to do, and if that committee allows the session to pass away without devising some means to protect the people from the losses which must inevitably follow unless additional safeguards are thrown around the national banks, they will merit the censure of the public. Congress, as well as the official at the head of the Banking Bureau, have now an important task to perform. They cannot commence this task too soon for their own reputation and the good of the country. The explosion of the Chase system of national banks has commenced, and it rests with Congress and the officials at Washington to determine whether the failures should stop here or spread all over the country. Both houses have been spending a great deal of time in legislation about the negro, endeavoring to create a new system of slavery for the blacks under the Freedmen's Bureau, run by New England persons, and at the same time degrade the white people. It is about time that they abandoned their schemes to inaugurate a new system of African slavery and looked after other important interests. The public now expects Congress to attend to the banking interests, and see that proper safeguards are placed around the national banks, and to perform that duty without delay.

THE CHOLERA SCARE.—Among the most ridiculous attempts to create a sensation or panic is the one respecting the existence of cholera in this city. Every sudden death, no matter from what cause, if it have any resemblance at all to the dreaded pestilence, is pronounced at once to be cholera, and fumigation, the application of disinfecting materials, and a general stampede among neighbors follow. There is no occasion for this alarm. The fatal cases of sickness that have occurred and been attributed to cholera have been proven to be nothing of the kind, but diseases likely to have happened at any time of the year under similar circumstances. The preparations of the Health Board are ample, and there need be, we sincerely believe, no apprehensions of a serious epidemic in this city the present season.

FATAL EXPLOSIONS.—Explosions by steam, gunpowder and nitro-glycerine, are becoming alarmingly frequent. Every day we hear of steam boiler explosions, about every other day we have a report that Dupont's, Hazard's or Laffin's powder mills have been blown up; and the melancholy instances of the loss of life by the explosion of the new combustible, nitro-glycerine, are too fresh in the memory of our readers to require repetition. These occurrences are rare in Europe, and it would seem that we Americans are either careless or do not possess a proper knowledge of dangerous explosive materials, or these accidents would be less frequent. There should be some stringent law respecting powder mills, as there is in regard to steam boilers; and as for the new and terrible explosive, nitro-glycerine, the sooner it ceases to be an article of commerce the better for every community.

THIRTY TALK ABOUT THE EXCISE LAW.—There is a great deal of talk and considerably more throat about the new Excise law. In his thirty talk on the topic many an old toper and barroom politician is beside himself in his wrathful denunciation of the law. No doubt political capital will be made of it all around, while the idea of practical temperance reformation is a secondary consideration. Let us wait and abide the result of its workings.